

Plant Fact Sheet

TOBOSAGRASS

Pleuraphis mutica Buckl.
Plant Symbol = PLMU3

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



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Alternate Names

Tobosa, tobosa grass

Uses

Tobosagrass is grazed by cattle and horses. It makes good quality hay if cut about the time that seedheads appear, generally in July.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Tobosagrass is a native, warm-season rhizomatous perennial. The height ranges from 18 to 36 inches. The leaf blade is flat or somewhat rolled inward. The leaf sheath is shorter than the internodes. The nodes are hairy. The stems twist and curve inward at the top at maturity. The seedhead is a spike 1 ½ to 2 inches long. The spikelets are bearded at the base and whitish at maturity.

Distribution: For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

Management

Because tobosagrass is less palatable than blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), it increases under continuous grazing. It responds readily to extra moisture during the growing season. Water spreading on some sites increases the production. Overgrazing an area kills this grass.

Establishment

Tobosagrass grows and spreads from vigorous scaly rhizomes and is a low seed producer. On some sites, it forms a sod, while on others it grows more like a bunch grass. It often grows in pure stands. It grows best on adobe (clay) flats and upland clay loams. Occasionally, it grows on loams or sandy loams and on slopes.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS Agriculture Handbook No. 389, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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